

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-S:PHBLAKEBURN

9/26/73 EXT. 21522

APPROVED BY E:MR. BILLER

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O 261924Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191599

TOECO 53

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO HONG KONG MOSCOW PEKING
FROM TOKYO 21 SEP 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, CH, UR, US

SUBJ: US PARTICIPATION IN TYUMEN OIL PIPELINE PROJECT

1. ASAHI PRESS OF SEPT 21 REPORTS INCREASED CONCERN IN JAPAN THAT US MAY STAY OUT OF TYUMEN OIL PROJECT. THIS FEAR, ACCORDING TO ASAHI, BASED ON CASUAL REMARK MADE BY CHOU EN-LAI TO RECENT HIGH LEVEL JAPANESE BUSINESS GROUP HEADED BY KEDIDANREN (FEDERAL OF ECONOMIC ORGANITATIONS) PRES UEMURA WHICH VISITED PEKING IN LATE SEPT. CHOU REPORTEDLY TOL BUSINESSMEN THAT US WAS UNLIKELY TO TAKE PART IN TYUMEN PROJECT. ACCORDING ASAHI, SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE REMARK WAS TACTICAL MOVE TO DISCOURAGE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT, WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE THAT CHOU EN-LAI MAY HAVE RECEIVED WORD FROM DR. KISSINGER REGARDING US POSITION ON PARTICIPATION BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN TYUMEN.

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2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECENTLY HEARD SIMILAR EX-

PRESSION IN JAPAN RE USG BLOCKING
PARTICIPATION OF US FIRMS IN TYUMEN PROJECT ON SECURITY
GROUNDS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION QUITE CLEAR
TO JAPANESE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING AT ECONCOM IX,
EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOME EXPRESSION OF CURRENT US POSI-
TION ON PARTICIPATION IN TYUMEN PROJECT MIGHT BE IN ORDER.
SHOESMITH UNQUOTE RUSH

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